

'There is no better education than adversity'. Those were the exact words Faith told me when I visited her at the orphanage. It amazes me how orphans like Faith actually survived through the days and the rest of their life without a family. It is a difficult life no doubt, but orphans like Faith can find in themselves and in others like them, a solace, a refuge and a fortress because of the great suffering they have gone through. These orphans have grown through adversity. Therefore, I believe that adversity is the only way for one to grow.

As a ten year old girl back then, Faith and I were buddies. We talked together; we played together, we studied together; we did almost everything together. However, our happy childhood days were soon over, as Faith lost both of her parents in a car accident. It was devastating. She did not come to school for weeks, and all I could do was hear her shaky voice and weeping through the telephone. She was not the Faith I knew of anymore. I felt sorry for her as she lived in misery and without the love from her parents. To make matters worse, the aunt she was living with initially sent her to the orphanage. However, Faith kept quiet all the time, and I could only look pitifully at her.

Subsequently, my visits to her were few and far between. I only visited her once every month. To my relief, every month seemed like a new beginning for Faith. She was making new friends. Her smile on her face gradually grew wider. As a best friend of hers, it comforted me that the old Faith was back again. I definitely felt her strong presence again, but this time it felt stronger. She looked like she matured over this period of time. It really struck me how Faith had grown through adversity.

Adversity breeds strength and with new found strength; we are able to face future setbacks with a stronger and more mature thinking than before. Just like Faith, she got through her darkest times and now she is standing strong, unafraid of overcoming those obstacles in front of her. From the fellowship of fellow orphans, I watched her gain more strength from common suffering and therefore, a greater and deeper fraternity and solidarity with others. It was all due to adversity.

Adversity precedes growth, this I believe.

